

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add, after the Title, as the first heading and paragraph of the specification the following:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/ZA2003/00092, filed July 15, 2003, which claims the benefit of South African patent application No. 02/5743, filed July 18, 2002. --

On page 10, lines 19-22, please amend the paragraph as follows:

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a biologically pure bacterial culture of *M. elsdenii* having substantially the same 16S ribosomal RNA sequence as that of the *M. elsdenii* strain deposited on March 18, 2002 at NCIMB, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK under number NCIMB 41125.

On pages 33-34, In Table I bridging pages 33-34, please delete the table and insert the following table:

Primer Target position ^a Primer sequence (5' to 3')	Primer Target position ^a Primer sequence (5' to 3')	PrimerTarget position ^a Primer sequence (5' to 3')
Reverse direction (antisense)		
R11 (PCR)	1384-1400	CGGTGTGTACAAGGCCC [SEQ ID NO:1]
R1193	1174-1192	CGTCATCCCCGCCTTCCTC [SEQ ID NO:2]
R1353	1336-1352	CGATTACTAGCGATTCC [SEQ ID NO:3]
R961/R7	949-963	TCGAATTAAACCACA [SEQ ID NO:4]

R5	786-802	CTACCAGGGTATCTAAT [SEQ ID NO:5]
R361/R1	340-355	CTGCTGCCTCCCGTAGG [SEQ ID NO:6]
Forward direction (sense)		
FD1/F1 (PCR)	8-26	AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCA [SEQ ID NO:7]
F1353	1336-1352	GGAATCGCTAGTAATCG [SEQ ID NO:8]
F361	340-355	CCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG [SEQ ID NO:9]
F961	949-963	TGTGGTTTAATTCTGA [SEQ ID NO:10]

^aAll target positions for primers refer to *E. coli* numbering systems (Brosius *et al.* , 1978).

In the Sequence Listing

Please add, as a separate part of the specification, the sequence listing that is filed herewith.